

CHRISTIAN ETHICS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Christian Ethics is a three credit introductory course designed for the student who is preparing for ministry in UFMCC to understand the sources, methods and issues in an academic study of ethics/moral theology. Particular attention is given to the application of theoretical ethical study to the lives of individual persons within the context of UFMCC congregations. The course will explore the differences between philosophical ethics and theological ethics, the sources that are used in ethical analysis and decision-making, the differences in traditional Christian theologies in ethical considerations, the critique that various liberationist theologies raise to traditional ethics, and the application of moral theology for clergy and congregants alike.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

To familiarize students with the different fields of ethical study.

To enable students to understand the distinctive nature of Christian ethics in the broader field of ethics.

To familiarize students with the various sources for engaging in Christian ethics.

To engage students in an analysis of traditional Christian ethical positions and to understand the critiques raised by the various liberationist theologies of those positions.

To expose students to basic principles in ethical decision making and facilitate their application of these methods to everyday life as well as the context of ministry.

To enable students to reflect upon their own moral development and moral agency.

To enable students to reflect upon their own ministry and the demands of professional clergy ethics upon that ministry, particularly in regards to preventing sexual misconduct and its resultant harm to parishioners.

METHODS OF ACHIEVING COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Reading and discussion of required texts.
2. Lecture by faculty.
3. Class presentations by students.
4. Video.
5. Six reflection papers.
6. One research paper.
7. Case studies.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Student Reader.

Maguire, Daniel C. The Moral Core of Judaism and Christianity.
Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.

Gustafson, James M. Protestant and Roman Catholic Ethics: Prospect for
Rapprochement. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1978.

Daly, Lois K., ed. Feminist Theological Ethics: A Reader. Louisville:
Westminster John Knox Press, 1994.

Gilligan, Carol. In a Different Voice: Psychological Theory and Women's
Development. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press,
1982.

Nelson, James B. and Longfellow, Sandra P., eds. Sexuality and the Sacred:
Sources for Theological Reflection. Louisville: Westminster John
Knox Press, 1994.

UFMCC Documents on Clergy Professional Ethics

*Hoagland, Sarah Lucia. Lesbian Ethics: Toward New Value. Palo Alto,
California: Institute of Lesbian Studies, 1988.

*Fortune, Marie M. Love Does No Harm: Sexual Ethics for the Rest of Us.
New York: Continuum, 1995.

*Cannon, Katie G. Black Womanist Ethics. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1988.

*McNeill, John J. Freedom, Glorious Freedom. Boston: Beacon Press, 1995.

*Glaser, Chris. Uncommon Calling: A Gay Man's Struggle to Serve the Church. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1988.

*Goss, Robert. Jesus Acted Up: A Gay and Lesbian Manifesto. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1993.

*Comstock, Gary David. Gay Theology Without Apology. Cleveland, Ohio: The Pilgrim Press, 1993.

+Fortune, Marie M. Is Nothing Sacred?: When Sex Invades the Pastoral Relationship. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1989.

+Heyward, Carter. When Boundaries Betray Us: Beyond Illusions of What is Ethical in Therapy and Life. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1993.

*Students will choose one of the books marked with an asterisk to read and make a class presentation on that book.

+Half the class will read the Fortune book and the other half the Heyward book.

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COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

UNIT I.

Reading:

Student Reader: Macquarrie & Childress,
The Westminster Dictionary of Christian Ethics

"Ethics"

"Christian Ethics"

"Business Ethics"

"Sexual Ethics"

"Professional Ethics"

Maguire, The Moral Core of Judaism & Christianity

Assignment Due: Reflection Paper #1

UNIT II.

Reading:

Student Reader: Macquarrie & Childress
The Westminster Dictionary of Christian Ethics

"Bible in Christian Ethics"

"Ecclesiology and Ethics"

"Natural Law"

"Tradition in Ethics"

"Science and Ethics"

"Feminist Ethics"

Gustafson, Protestant and Roman Catholic Ethics

Assignment Due: Reflection Paper #2

UNIT III.

Reading:

Student Reader: Valerie Saiving, "The Human Situation: A Feminine View" from Womanspirit Rising: A Feminist Reader in Religion, Carol P. Christ and Judith Plaskow, eds. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1979.

Daly, Feminist Theological Ethics. Articles by:
Haney (pp. 3-12), Robb (pp. 13-32), Cannon
(pp. 33-41), Williams (pp. 42-58), Isasi-Díaz
(pp. 77-87), Daly, M. (pp. 121-134), Bennett
(pp. 135-145), Andolsen (146-159), Eugene (pp.
160-171), & Heyward (pp. 172-180)



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Assignment Due: Reflection Paper #3

UNIT IV. Critique by Liberationist Theologies, Part Two

Reading: Nelson & Longfellow, Sexuality and the Sacred.
Articles by: Culbertson (pp. 183-194), Nelson (pp. 195-215), Clark (pp. 216-227), Part 5 (pp. 357-401)

Assignment Due: Reflection Paper #4

UNIT V. Critique by Liberationist Theologies, Part Three

Reading: Based on Chosen Class Presentation Topic

Assignment Due: Class Presentation #1

UNIT VI. Moral Development and Moral Agency

Reading: Gilligan, In a Different Voice

Assignment Due: Reflection Paper #5

UNIT VII. Applied Ethics, Part One

Reading: Daly, Feminist Theological Ethics, Articles by:
Farley (pp. 192-212), Harrison with Cloyes
(pp. 213-232), Raymond (pp. 233-243), Lebacqz
(pp. 244-261), Bettenhausen (pp. 262-270),
Keller (pp. 282-294), Hunt (pp. 315-325)

Assignment Due: Class Presentation #2

UNIT VIII. Applied Ethics, Part Two

Reading: Nelson and Longfellow, Sexuality and the Sacred
Articles by: Lorde (pp. 75-79), Ellison (pp. 236-
241), Harrison (pp. 242-255), Lebacqz (pp.
256-261), Furlong (pp. 262-263), Dominian
(pp. 264-276), PCUSA (pp. 282-287), PCUSA
(pp. 297-304), Jantzen (pp. 305-313), Shelp (pp.
314-325), Fortune (pp. 326-334), Ellison (pp.
335-344), Pellauer (pp. 345-353)

Assignment Due: Class Presentation #2 (cont'd.)

UNIT IX. Applied Ethics, Part Three

Video Viewing: "Torch Song Trilogy" or
"Jeffrey" or
"Desert Hearts" or
"When Night is Falling" or
"Go Fish"
"Priest"

Assignment Due: Reflection Paper # 6

UNIT X. Professional Ethics for Clergy

Reading: UFMCC Documents Regarding Clergy Professional
Ethics
Either Fortune or Heyward books (Both
recommended, if time permits)

Assignment Due: Research Paper

Wanda Floyd

* - Black Warmist Githies

+ - Is Nothing Sacred?

Issue - S/M

Staff, / Torch Song, Trilogy,

Sandi Rice

1. * 'Love Does No Harm' - Fortune
2. Sexual Violence - Research
3. + 'Is Nothing Sacred?' - Fortune
4. Film - Jeffery

Ethical Issues

LEE W RAHE

* Jesus Ached Up

Ethical Issue: Euthanasia

* Fortune, Is Nothing Sacred

+ Fortune - Is Nothing Sacred

* Glaser - Uncommon Calling

Marriage / Holy Unions

Torch Song Trilogy

Edgar Miller

CARDINE

- / * Gay Theology w/o Apology
- / Ethical Issue - Domestic Violence
- / + Borderline Betrayals

Film: Jeffrey

